

# Great Faith 1: Make Faithfulness Great Again

Great faith is great faithfulness.

- I wonder if we have too much fake faith(fulness)
  - I'll believe but I won't do, think not act, speak not pay!
  - Who invented this separation between faith and faithfulness?  
It's a modern fallacy!
  - Faithfulness is faith embodied.
- Faith is not about what you believe or think, it's about what you believe or think **enough to act on**, live on, endure on, pay a price on!
- Great faith isn't just about believing more.
- Faith isn't an intellectual term, it's a relational term
- Faithfulness is faith embodied in the context of relationship.
  - You want great faithfulness from your spouse, not mediocre faithfulness.

Great faithfulness is what need and you get it from Jesus. **Does he get it from you?** So what does great faithfulness look like?

**Hebrews 10 32 Remember those earlier days** after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 **You suffered** along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, **because you knew** that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 **So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.**

36 **You need to persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." 38 And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back."

39 **But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.**

The Hebrew believers believed something enough that they live differently to everyone else.

- They had a belief and a confession and a conviction. Jesus is King.

- They wouldn't **worship at the civic temples**. Pay homage to Caesar as lord. They wouldn't join their family members as they worshipped pagan gods.
  - They were accused of being anti family, anti tradition, anti culture, anti state, anti humanity.
- The Great faith of the Hebrews wasn't just what they thought - it was how they acted, how they lived, how they changed.

And the problem for the Hebrews was the suffering just kept coming.

- **Ever been there?** The rejection, persecution, obstacles in living a life of faithfulness just never seem to stop. (from people/life)
  - **If not then I've got to ask** - what are you doing?
- And the answer for the Hebrews was to grow in their faithfulness!

How were they encouraged to grow in their faithfulness? **How do we grow in our faithfulness?** How do we make faithfulness great again?

- Remember the price you paid for faithfulness.

*32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering.*

- Remember the investment you made in your relationship with God and with each other.

*33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.*

- Remember the faithfulness of God.

*36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay."*

### **Conclusion**

Remember: Faithfulness is faith embodied in the context of relationship.

- You can tell me you have faith in God but I've got to see it. The world has got to see it.

No matter what's happened last year or last week or last night we can chose to make 2019 a year of great faith/great faithfulness.

We're going to need to grow in our faithfulness.

- God is calling us to something that will challenge and stretch us as a church this year.
  - There's a plan. There's steps. There's outside wisdom. But it's still going to stretch us.
- And if he's doing that with us as a church I know he's going to do that with the people in.

How will we grow in our faithfulness?

- By remembering the price we've already paid
- By remembering the investment we've made in each other and with God.
- By remembering the faithfulness of God.

A God who gives us himself, fully, completely, faithfully in his Son.